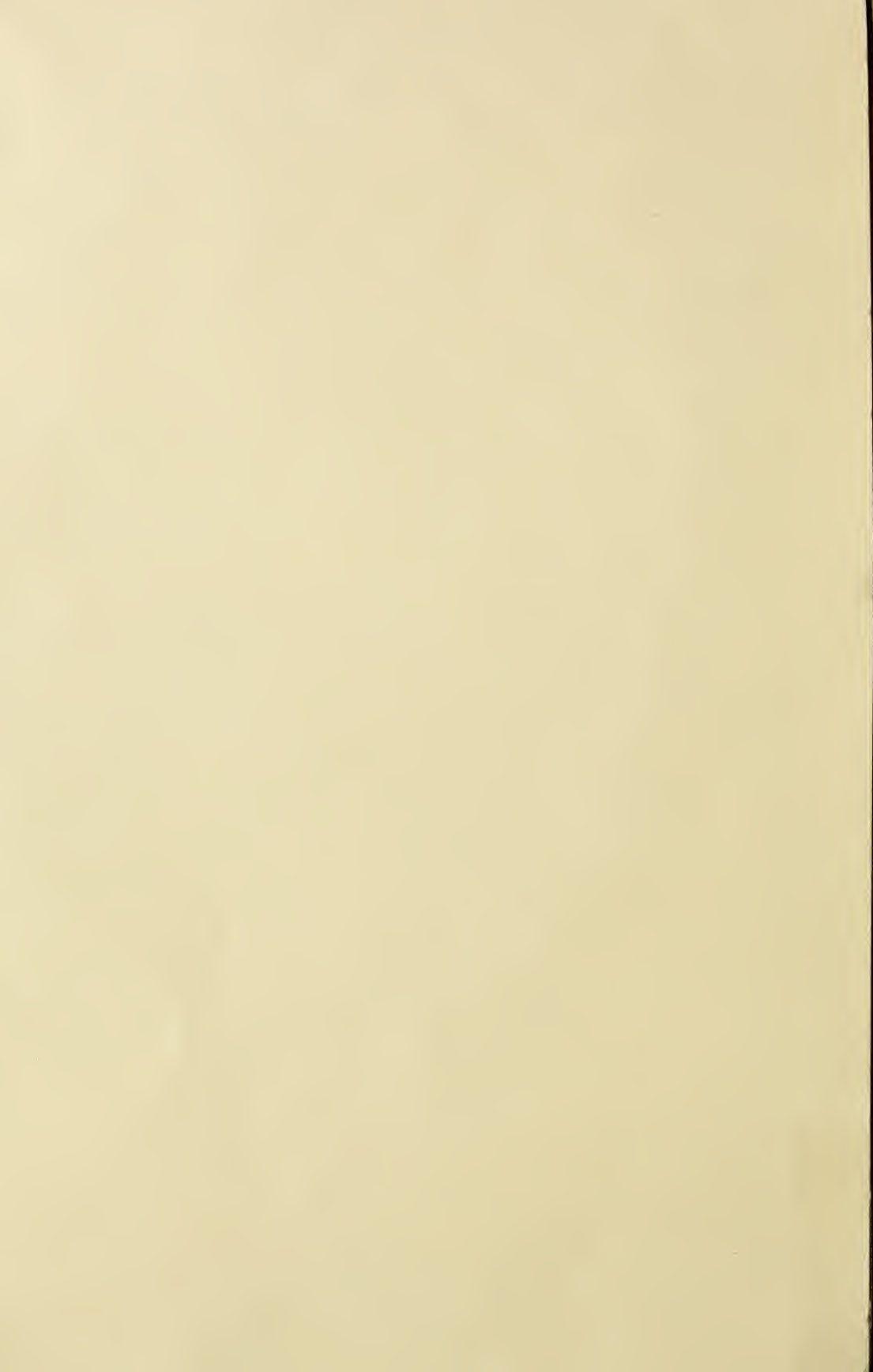


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Agriculture, Horticulture, Live Stock and Rural Economy,

THE OLDEST AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN MARYLAND, AND FOR TEN YEARS THE ONLY ONE.

AND NEW FARM.

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MARKETING CROPS.

The greatest difficulty with a large majority of farmers lies in the disposal of their produce at paying prices. We find some remarkable accounts of large prices received by individuals who write for the papers; but we all wonder how it happens that we cannot realize such prices. Here is one who is getting from 75 cts. to \$1.00 a pound for his butter; while the great body of the farmers in his neighborhood can get only 25 cts. or 35 cts. a pound for theirs. Or this one gets 30 cts. a dozen for his eggs, while his neighbor is getting only 20 cts. a dozen. Or he gets from 5 cts. to 10 cts. a bushel more for his corn or wheat than do others, or \$5.00 more a ton for his hay. And so, through the whole round of his produce, the prices he places in his articles to the agricultural press are far beyond those realized by the farmers generally.

We do not doubt the correctness of the statements he makes; but we use this to show the very great difference between one who is skilled in the art of selling produce

and those who are not; and to show, also, that the farmer's success lies fully as much in the capability of selling as in the capability of raising crops. When we visit a farm and see a large variety of bounteous crops testifying to the farmer's skilful labor, we naturally expect to see him thriving in every department of farm life; but we are hardly prepared to see all these various crops sold for less than their actual cost and the farmer growing poorer every year. This last, however, is too often the case, so that he and his family are forced to live and dress in the most economical manner, spending no money upon themselves and none for the comforts or enjoyments of life.

From this it is a self evident fact that every farmer should make the sale of his produce a serious study. It is folly to spend a season's toil upon raising a good crop and as soon as it is harvested allow the first comer to have it at a nominal price, when by a little management much more could have been obtained for it. It is better to be watching all through the

growing season the prices obtained by the merchants and thus be prepared to meet those who come to buy, and to show them that he is posted as to the actual value of his produce. The additional amount thus obtained will be all the difference between almost a failure and the most decided success.

Here is a farmer who has so managed that every acre of his large field of corn will yield at least seventy-five bushels of shelled corn. We look at the heavy crop and say "what a magnificent farm and farmer." But if every bushel has cost a cent more than it will bring, the value of that magnificence is questionable. If he sells it so that he loses 3 cts., 6 cts., 10 cts. on each bushel, he might better have given his land a rest. All his magnificence is a thing of the imagination; it has nothing real about it.

We cannot possibly give too much prominence to the value of attention to the sale of crops. It is all well enough to take prizes for the best system of cultivation and the largest actual yields of marketable produce; but it is far more important to take prizes for the best system of marketing produce, and the most money actually realized as profit from each acre grown. A particular training is necessary for the sale of goods, as well as for the buying of whatever is wanted on the farm. Dealers keep themselves constantly posted as to the markets and farmers should emulate the dealers in this respect.

FARMER'S MEETINGS.

The season is now at hand when the long winter evenings will give plenty of time for farmers in social meetings to discuss the various subjects which most generally interest them, and which contribute largely to the success of their calling. All organizations throughout

our country places should endeavor to improve the winter months to the best advantage possible; and where no organizations exist at present, not a week should pass before steps are taken to have them. It matters very little what the organization shall be called, if it will bring the farmers together and enable them to compare notes and talk over the best methods of work. A single meeting will sometimes save a very large amount of money to many farmers; for it needs only the experience of a single one to secure many from being imposed upon by some swindlers; either in seeds, trees, implements, fertilizers, or other departments of farm expenses. Remember, too, that it is not only so much money saved, it is time saved also. When we consider how very short at the best our life is, and that in some cases it will take years to discover the fraud,—as in the case of fruit trees—it becomes our duty to let each other know where the breakers are rolling, which will rob us of the years of waiting for bearing-time. Although this is only one way in which the social meetings become a pecuniary benefit, it will show how much may be done.

It is quite proper, too, to organize for the saving of money in the purchase of the necessary articles which the farmer must have, getting them thus at wholesale rates and enjoying the benefits of prime articles for the price he would otherwise have paid for inferior articles. It seems to us to be the privilege of the farmer to buy as low as possible even as it is the privilege of any other class to do so; and at the present time when almost everything raised by the farmer must be sold for little money, it is a duty which he owes to himself and his family to obtain all necessary articles cheaply. He must have good seeds and the best of tools, and it would be his own fault, if he paid more

for them than his neighbor who happened to belong to a club, or a grange, or similar organization. This winter is the time to learn these things, and they can be learned by social meeting and profitable discussions of such topics.

We are firm believers in these meetings. They are, on a small scale the Farmer's Institutes, which in some of our Western States have been worth hundreds of thousands of dollars—for example, to the farmers of Michigan and Wisconsin. We should have them here; but not having them—because of the short-sighted policy of our law-makers—let us have the next best thing to the institutes, viz: meetings of farmers during the winter in every neighborhood to discuss the vital questions of farm life. It would be a great help also, if on these occasions short essays could be read, or brief lectures be given on the great subjects of the best crops, cultivation, growth, harvesting, preparation for market and finally their sale.

Each department of the farm is a study in itself. Every crop must have its peculiar treatment to obtain the very best results. The raising of any of the farm animals is a study of no mean proportions. Room for learning is always to be found by every inquirer, and none of us are overstocked with that knowledge which belongs to the practical affairs of our everyday life. We can all learn one from another, and the sooner we realize the fact, the better it will be for us all. Let no feeling of jealousy prevent perfect freedom in these meetings. There is not the slightest danger of any neighborhood overstocking the market in this country.

How to Plant Lima Beans.

"The theory that lima beans will germinate best if placed in the ground edgewise is refuted by Prof. Halsted, who has conducted a series of experiments in

order to determine the claim. He is of the opinion that the seeds should be laid flat on their sides."

We see the above in several of our exchanges, but we must decidedly disagree with Prof. H. and his experiments. We do not deny that with his soil and a remarkably favorable spring he has succeeded according to his statements; but we are sure, from a series of experiments extending over a period of between twenty and thirty years, that the Limas planted on the edge with the eye down, just beneath the soil, have succeeded five against one of the same seed planted on the side, and covered from one to two inches with soil. Also, those which were on the edge were uniformly of a more healthy green than the others—a majority of those planted flat, coming up pale and brown, as if the effort to get through the ground had exhausted them. We shall abide by the old method of planting Lima Beans.

FARM LABOR.

Partly in consequence of the lack of paying money crops, and partly from short sighted policies in reference to hiring, and partly from wrong ideas of the laborers, a dearth of really good farm hands is now afflicting the farming community. The past year has suffered from this cause to a more serious extent than is generally supposed, and very many farmers have become greatly discouraged in consequence.

Perhaps no greater cause for the lack of good help exists than the first mentioned. Crops have not brought sufficient money to warrant the payment of first-class help. It has been a general complaint, we all know, that many of the field crops have been grown at a loss during the past season, and when not actually at a loss yet at so small an advance that only with

the greatest economy could the farmer make both ends meet when pay-day arrived. We begin to think that in this part of our country it will become a necessity to abandon in great measure the usual crops of the different grains, and depend upon fruits and vegetables to a greater extent for money. More intelligent labor is required for vegetable farming than for cereal crops, it is true; but they bring a much larger proportionate reward in money. The vegetable crops require a more thorough cultivation; but a much smaller area will bring so much greater money returns that it will greatly over-balance the lighter work on the grain crops. Another modification of the prevailing habit of raising so much grain may be secured by the adoption of the silo more generally and the adaptation of the great body of the land not put into fruits and vegetables to the raising of cattle, sheep and swine. The silo is to become the institution of the age and is destined to work a revolution in the methods of farm work of which we are now only catching a few faint glimpses. Those who have been putting their thirty, or forty, or a hundred acres into grain, because their fathers were accustomed to do so, will gradually learn that these tracts can produce meat, butter and cheese, by the aid of the silo, with labor at least no heavier, to vastly more profit than by the old methods. These changes must take place that money may be had to secure good farm labor and pay honest wages for honest work.

Taking things, however, just as they exist at present, much better help could be obtained did a broader policy prevail when help is hired. We are constrained to believe that help should be hired by the year whenever good satisfactory help can be obtained; and it is good policy to permanently locate such help on the farm, in suitable dwellings, and with such private

garden lands as may give the family the help of vegetables towards a rational living. This is the policy which must prevail if farm labor can ever be brought to that permanency which is so greatly needed in our country. The hiring of help for a few weeks, just in the press of work, at high wages, is a ruinous practice to all concerned. The really desirable farm hands are driven away from the farming community to some place where they can obtain more constant and regular employment, even though it be at less wages.

By many, however, it is thought that much more money is obtained in the city by the laborer, than can possibly be had in the country. But when it is considered that a much greater amount is necessarily spent for rented houses and the absolutely essential articles of food and fuel, to say nothing of the many opportunities of spending and the artificial wants which are always cultivated, it is much more than doubtful whether as much is realized in the end, either of comfort or of money, as in the country. Certainly this would not be the case did the wise and far-seeing policy of long engagements, with privileges of dwelling and garden, more generally enter into the farmers' plans when hiring help. The wise and thoughtful farm laborer—and these can easily become the majority in this land—will not be led away to city trades, if the actual facts are once fairly set before him, and if the farmers can be prevailed upon to add to the small sums they are now so hardly able to spare, the comfortable home, the kitchen garden, and the privilege perhaps of fallen and dead trees from the wood lot.

The question of Farm labor is getting to be of very great importance with our farmers, and unless something is done to stop the constant drain which is now going on, a much worse condition will

soon prevail all through the Atlantic States, than at present; although it is bad enough already. The farmers' sons are apt to be carried away with these same wrong ideas, that money is plentiful and cheap in the cities. It is the most deceitful cheat of this nineteenth century. It is plentiful enough; but it is exceedingly dear. It is only bought at the expense of your constant toil of body and of brain; often at the expense of that royalty of manhood, which, once gone, years of struggle and sorrow and toil will seldom bring back. Place this fact in its true light, and at least a partial remedy may be secured; but the whole scope of the present practice must be reconsidered, and a substantial change must be had before a perfect remedy can be found.

Against the Winds.

Every possible precaution should be taken to prevent the winds from driving the piercing cold into our dwellings. Farmers houses may be made much more comfortable than they are at present with very little labor. Use a little listing around all the outside doors, and if the crevices are large, wind strips of lath with the listing and nail them on the jams close against the door. Wedge the windows so that they will not rattle when the high winds smite the house; the wedging will press the sash together and keep out the cold. If necessary, however, use rubber strips to tighten the sash. In very many ways the home comforts may be increased during the winter cold. These measures supplemented with good stoves and plenty of dry fuel under cover, will make your homes proof against all the winter winds may threaten. Let them howl amid the trees outside; but warm and snug within, how are the joys enhanced to the Farmer and his wife and their happy children!

Forestry.

This subject grows in importance every year, and a very just estimate is beginning to be placed upon the proper methods of preserving what forests we have at present. It is certainly unfortunate that our government should spend large amounts to protect their forests and offer liberal premiums for forest cultivation with one hand, but with the other, encourage the barbarous extermination of what forests we now possess. The *Western Rural* says in this connexion: As is too often the case, our government is helping on the work of destruction. To make millionaires of a few vandal lumber kings, a protective tariff is laid upon lumber, thus effectually barring out the almost inexhaustible forests of Canada that lie just along our borders. Let this be removed while we yet have a little timber of our own, and then let the government protect our forests instead of offering a premium on their destruction. Let timber culture in all parts of the country be encouraged by both State and general government.

Warm Water for Stock.

When Farmers are advised to give warm water to stock, it should always be understood that if above blood heat, it should have feed of some kind stirred into it to make it palatable; bran or corn meal will do. If given to them clear, it should be for the best results, only a little warmer than ordinary spring water; the icy-chill entirely removed. A great deal is now going the rounds of the press on this subject; but it will soon die out. Meanwhile it is best to move slowly and use a good degree of common sense as to what "warm" water really means, when applied to the drinking supply of cattle. Then all that is said of the improved flow of milk from its use will have its proper weight with us.

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

WESTERN CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM KANSAS CITY, MO.,
TO
SAN DIEGO, CAL.

Gone there to stay.—We have the prospects of further letters from that beautiful locality.

Well, you already know what a busy month I had in selling our property, and getting ready to leave Kansas City. I got everything arranged to my mind, and we left the house, that had been our home for ten years—my first home, my happy home, although I had seen some sorrow, and learned some of life's deepest lessons while living within its walls. We arrived at the depot in ample season, but were told there were no cars for us to go in. We came in an excursion train that leaves every two weeks. The cars engaged by Mr. Walters, for that day and party, had been given up to other parties, and there were no cars to be had until the next day; but they kept telling us we would go in an hour or two. When it came night, the cars were provided and we went into them and slept, after having spent the day in the Hotel. We finally started, just twenty-four hours after we expected to. We were quite comfortable in the cars, had pleasant companions, and made the journey safely without change of cars, until we arrived in Los Angeles.

The prairies in Kansas are pretty well cultivated on both sides of the R. R., and we passed through many villages and cities. We passed the time pleasantly and reached Denver, Friday noon. We staid there six hours, and had a general view of the city. It is very beautiful; is on a level plain, with mountains in the distance; has many fine buildings, both public and private; wide streets, with shade trees, and a stream of water running near the curbstone. When we left Den-

ver we went straight north to Cheyenne. It took us six hours to make the run. The road passes through a valley with mountain tops on each side in the distance, and that is the best general description of the greater part of the route. We passed the summit about eleven o'clock Friday night, at Sherman, 8,235 feet above the sea.

All night, and Saturday morning the road was apparently level, in the afternoon we came into the canons, and for about three hours, the scenery was magnificent, beyond my powers of description. Sometimes the pass was very narrow, sometimes wide, but always sublime and soul thrilling. I could have wished to go through the mountains at a snail's pace, that I might have enjoyed for days, what we so hurriedly saw in a few hours; for we went thundering down the steep mountain side, at the rate of sixty-five miles an hour. We had a long train of fourteen cars and two engines, and the curves are so short, sudden and frequent, the train was in a half-circle most of the time and it seemed as if the rear coaches must fly the track. But they did not, and we were whirled into Ogden about dark, to be told we should stay ten minutes. We did stay three hours; but from uncertainty as to the moment of starting, we did not leave the train. Ogden is 1,032 miles west of Omaha, and 833 east of San Francisco, and has 6000 inhabitants.

During the night we passed through the snow sheds of which there are thirty-five miles, but not one continuous shed. The weather all the time had been warm and we had not needed fire or extra clothes in the mountains. Sunday was very warm and the alkali dust almost insufferable. The porter of our car hunted up an old farmer and twice during the day they had what they called religious exercises. All night was warm and

dusty, and Monday morning we were in Sacramento, where we staid two hours. About daylight Monday morn we came to some grand, sublime scenery. We arose early and went to the rear of the train where we obtained a good view, and for several hours my soul drank its fill of the magnificence, power and glory of God, as spread out before me in the early sunrise. It was in the old mining regions more particularly, through which we were then passing.

From Sacramento to Los Angeles is a ride of a day and a night. The road runs nearly in the centre of the State; mountains on both sides all the way, but not near. The general look of the land is light grey; the soil looks poor, but is very rich and productive, as soon as watered. One sees numberless wind mills all the way. It costs about 500 dollars to put in operation one of these wind mills. The road runs through the garden of California from Sacramento to Los Angeles. We passed through many towns and villages, past many cattle ranches, and farms covered with fruit orchards, and fields of wheat.

We did not remain long in Los Angeles. We left all of our party there except Mr. and Mrs. Saltsman who came to San Diego with us. It takes all day to come down from Los Angeles. The scenery is fine all the way, and when we began to follow a little stream of water to find our way through the Coast Range of mountains, it became extremely beautiful—more like the Aleghanies—the mountains were thickly wooded to their summits, except in places where the rocks cropped out bold and clear. The Rockies are rightly named: they are bold, barren, gigantic and magnificent; but rocky. We reached San Diego at night to find our best friend in this world at the train waiting for us.

I have come to San Diego to stay, so I came prepared to ignore all disagreeables

and like it. I sent you a map in a newspaper which gives you a very correct view of the town and surrounding country. The land rises gently from the edge of the bay back to the hills, and in the distance are seen the mountains in old Mexico. When we are settled in "Bay View Cottage"—the name of our future home,—we shall be fourteen miles from old Mexico and less than one half mile from the edge of the bay.

San Diego has increased in population 1000 per month for the last ten months, and the increase during the winter is expected to be more. Houses are scarce and rents high, and rooms are very hard to be found. It claims now 20,000 inhabitants and contains many fine public buildings and handsome residences with nice grounds, shade trees, grapes and flowers. But they are scattered about, never a full block built handsomely on both sides of the street. The streets are wide, with wide side-walks—only the walks are not fully laid as yet, except in the business portion of the city. They are working on the streets in all directions, grading and putting in sewers.

The dust is fearful, fine and deep; every one keeps a feather-duster on the front door to dust your shoes before you go in. The mornings are usually cloudy, with high fog until about ten o'clock; but little low fog since we came here, and they tell us there never is very much. The bay is large and said to be the best harbor on the coast. Vessels can come in at all times, no matter how severe the storm outside. The surrounding country is grey and barren looking, and if you should see it now you would agree with the little boy who said "Poor God can't raise any flowers here." It has not rained since last March. The summer months here constitute nature's time of rest. As soon as the rain comes everything begins

to grow, and the grey hill sides are green and covered with flowers and the yards are very handsome where care has been taken. Good water is found a few feet beneath the surface; but the city has water works now, the water coming from the mountains 45 miles away. The city is lighted with electric lights; The buildings are lighted with gas and lamps. They have street cars and one moter line, and others projected. I am here to live, I will write often.

San Diego, Cal.

E. W. S.

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

FAIRS GENERALLY—OURS IN PARTICULAR.

The Agricultural Fairs are held and now a few words upon the subject may not be uninteresting to the readers of the MARYLAND FARMER. As in all enterprises having in view some special good for the benefit of mankind, there must necessarily be errors of judgment and practice deemed inseparable from all human organizations, the very best we can do is, to correct abuses as far as possible as we advance.

About two years ago the proposed Agricultural Fair in Shenandoah County met with some opposition, owing to a difference of opinion upon the manner of conducting the same, together with the usual difficulty in selecting competent officials. As a natural consequence some apprehension was felt for its success. After considerable debate, and some noisy demonstration, during which a few of the combatants had a chance of airing their opinions, the usual formula was adopted, the experiment was tried; and the result was not only satisfactory to ourselves, but challenged and received the unqualified commendation of judges and other officials from the wealthier portions of the State. The

exhibits both in the past and present year were pronounced equal to anything ever produced on a similar occasion. In some departments the variety was greater, and other exhibits were considered of better quality. This is no faint praise, and we feel a laudable pride in the decision rendered, inasmuch as our County seat though antidating the war for Independence has only a population of twelve hundred.

Being placed on the list of judges for awarding premiums, our attention was called to this department. And it is with this part of the subject that we have to deal. One must exercise a nice discrimination in deciding upon the merits of the products and skilled labor in exhibits, inasmuch as many articles are unexceptionally good, making the nicely drawn decision a matter of the greatest importance. But when within the space of three hours, any three or four of the gentler sex of purely abstemious habits, are required to decide upon the merits of thirty-five varieties of pickles, sweet and sour, forty-five kinds of vinegar and catsup, and twenty-one different wines, we are forced to the conclusion that the time allotted will scarcely allow a thorough examination, except as in both instances referred to there are some of the products easily set aside as comparatively worthless. Our experiences justifies us in calling special attention to this part of the programme: Let there be more time given for consultation, and the work will be better done; there will be more general satisfaction in the result, both in the consciences of the judges, and to the applicants for favor. This is one of the errors to be corrected as we progress, our candid opinion being, the time specified does not meet the requirements quite satisfactorily to ourselves. This decision was reached after our experience last year. The management the present year passed

into other hands, a public spirited man as equally competent as the former manager, a man whose enterprise and ability would give life and zest to any laudable undertaking, but who increased our difficulties not a little by selecting the third day instead of the first, as last year, for our decision. For two hours the crowd outside rushed to and fro, clamoring for admittance, until further resistance was useless, and they surged in upon us, and fairly crowded us out of our places of business. This mistake was so palpable that it need not be repeated. A word to the wise being always sufficient.

It is worthy of note that general good order prevailed, which may be accredited to the fact that by previous arrangement no liquor was sold on the Fair ground.

The dairy interests were well represented, the parade of dairy stock around the half mile track, presented a most magnificent sight, and will ever be remembered as one of a kind with the display of horsemanship executed by Myrtie Peek, the champion of female equestrianism which must be seen to be realized.

The poultry exhibits comprised some fine specimens of pure bred breeds, well calculated to excite interest in this branch of business which is fast becoming a specialty in some sections. Too much care cannot be taken in selecting poultry for profit. Pure strains are not to be despised, but the hen that gives the quickest and best returns for the care of her, is in every sense the best. We have always found some of this kind in every variety of poultry which we have kept, and unless they prove troublesome in some way, are allowed to live to a good old age, being careful to set as many eggs as possible, and in this way keep up the profits of the poultry yard. But this is our hobby. We sometimes think that if we were to attempt to write an essay, we would find

ourselves in some unaccountable way around in the poultry yard, moralizing perhaps upon the soft shelled egg, or speculating upon the supply for Thanksgiving. M. A. G.

Shenandoah County.

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

DURABILITY OF WOOD.

The durability of wood is important to us, for upon it depends the economy of our fences, our buildings, our tools and our machines. The farmer ought to make his own hoe, fork and ax handles, whiffle trees, &c., and fence posts and rails, when he has proper timber, and therefore he ought to know when to cut and how to treat the timber to make it most durable.

Moisture is one of the things necessary to decay. The moisture may be in the timber, or it may get in from the outside. If the timber is to be used at once, then it is best to cut it in the winter, say in January; for then there will be the least sap, or moisture in it. But if the wood can be seasoned, then it is best to cut it when it is fullest of sap; for by the seasoning of it, the liquid part of the sap is evaporated, leaving no moisture in the wood; and a part of the sap is left in as a solid, closing to a greater or less extent the cells and pores, and thus helping to keep outside moisture out.

This gives us a hint of how we may make wood more durable—by filling its pores with some substance which will not cause decay itself, but will exclude the moisture from the outside. Oil is such a substance. By dipping wood in boiling oil we increase its durability, for the hot oil will penetrate quite a distance, and filling the cells and spaces between them, will exclude both moisture and air.

We may do the same thing by coating the surface of the wood with something

impervious to moisture and air. Hot tar is such an application, and it also penetrates into the wood a little distance; but it can well be used only on the butts of posts, or articles not to be handled. Paint covers the wood and also sinks somewhat into it; and it can be used on articles to be handled. On buildings, fences and utensils, when well applied, paint is economical. Use only good oil. Mineral paints are the cheapest and also preserve wood the better, but are the less handsome.

Neither science nor practice has shown that there is any gain by setting fence posts butts upward. In cut timber, moisture travels equally well either towards or from the butt; while the moisture which attacks posts as often comes from below as from above. As the butt of the post is the larger, it is probably better to set it butt downward. Set fence posts so that when the boards are put on, the nails will penetrate the heart wood, not the sap wood. The boards will be held more firmly and for a longer time.

S. M. J.

Diphtheria from Cats.

In investigating an epidemic of diphtheria in 1886, Dr. Turner learned that in a cottage where the first case occurred a kitten had previously suffered from a throat disease and had died of it. Two cats had died in a village store and the proprietor afterward had diphtheria. The evidence is ample, also, that horses have diphtheria.

There is no doubt that diphtheria, as well as scarletina is communicated from man to animals and from animals to men. Mankind is exposed to great danger by reason of the ailments of domestic animals. The pet cat or the favorite dog may be the means of bringing disease and perhaps

death into the house. It behooves parents to see that their children are not allowed to play with or be near any domestic animal that has any throat trouble or any appearance of disease.—*Good Housekeeping*.

AN OLD FRIEND.

We copy the following letter of a correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* who has been on the Eastern Shore visiting the summer home of A. P. Sharp, with whom our readers must be familiar, from his many communications in the MARYLAND FARMER. We are glad to hear that the land which twenty years ago failed to yield 5 bushels of corn per acre, now indicates a crop of fifty; all of which, the owner has so often told our readers, has been done without expensive ammoniated fertilizers. We hope to hear ere long how this worn out land has been improved by the owner, as we have so much of a similar formation on the Western Shore that has long since become unproductive by continued cropping in tobacco and corn; much of it being offered at almost any price—land that in olden times sold for a hundred dollars an acre.—Ed.

FARMING ON THE EASTERN SHORE.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN—In Aug. last under a kind invitation from your correspondent, Dr. A. P. Sharp. I spent a day and night with him on his farm at Rock Hall, Kent Co., Maryland, on the Eastern Shore. Some years ago I visited this farm and reported my observations at the time in the COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

So now I had an opportunity for contrast between the condition and appearance of crops, &c. then, and at present. I was gratified to note on every hand the indisputable evidence of improvement effected by the doctor, under his theories so ably

argued by him in your columns. His farm was originally one of the worn-out plantations of Kent County, so impoverished as to be unable to grow even weeds in any sense of luxuriance. Now, however, his corn is of most vigorous appearance, and will undoubtedly yield more than 50 bushels to the acre throughout the whole plant.

In Kent County, corn, wheat and peaches are the staple crops, grass being incidental, yet the yield of hay has been excellent. The conclusion cannot be escaped that on the sandy soils of Kent County, the opposition of Dr. Sharp to the use of nitrogenous fertilizers, is based on sound theory. His practice of what he so vigorously preaches, has worked wonders on his farm, and no neighbor apparently need have fear to follow his example. He informs me that such fertilizers have ceased to be sold by venders everywhere in his section, because of most unsatisfactory results at the hands of purchasing farmers. The formula generally used by himself and acquaintances is 1,200 lbs. acid phosphate, 400 lbs. tankage, and 400 lbs. kainit, in which it will be seen no ground leather and similar valueless ingredients enter.

Kent County is geologically part of the drift constituting the whole peninsula east of the Chesapeake Bay, and which embraces Delaware as well as Maryland. It is the true habitat of the peach tree, and here, as in Delaware, this fruit attains perfection, and large orchards are found on nearly all its farms. This year, however, from some cause or other there was only a very limited crop, hardly a fiftieth of last year's yield. The doctor drove me down to where the Chester River enters the bay, and only here and there did the trees exhibit peaches in any quantity. Practically speaking the crop was a failure. Of course each grower has his theory as to cause. In one orchard that

we visited, however, the owner had about one-tenth of a former yield, but the finest quality, for which he was getting five-fold prices.

One singular topographical feature of Kent County, is that it is barely elevated above tide water. Masted vessels appear in its landscape on every hand, and yet there is so little waste land as to cause surprise. Chester River is rather a large bay or estuary than a river, and its arms profusely indent the lands on either side. The dwelling houses rarely have cellars, because the soil is affected to its surface by the tides during the winter and early spring season. But that does not apparently prove detrimental to either health or crops. For more than 200 years the most ruinous policy has been pursued in growing tobacco, wheat and corn, exclusively. Rest and restoration of abstracted constituents of the soil, have been wholly ignored. Yet everywhere I saw evidence of undiminished fertility, in huge stacks of straw and hay, thriftiest of peach orchards, corn fields promising 40 or more bushels, and rankest and most luxuriant growths of weeds in every nook and corner and harvested fields. One of the most discouraging signs to me, in many parts of the South, is absence of weeds, for I think that lands which fail to grow weeds will not grow crops, and that he who attempts to farm such lands will come to grief sooner or later. But here on the Eastern Shore the visitor is impressed by the signs of great inherent fertility and vitality, notwithstanding the destructive tillage given by the merciless cropping and robbing of more than 200 years. Occasionally a farm has been denuded of all richness, and the doctor, I think, was the purchaser of one of these, if the contrast between the present and the former appearance of his crops, &c., is a criterion. He is confident his corn will average over 50 bushels to

the acre, and I do not doubt he will so realize.

Nature in other ways has done much for this portion of the Eastern Shores. In the long drive of nearly 40 miles taken up and down the promontory between Chester River and Chesapeake Bay, the evidences of inherent merit were indisputable. It is no wonder that prior to the Revolutionary War this locality should have been the favorite resort of English nobility. But it is wonderful that it to-day should not be a sterile desert, if we consider only the immense drafts made upon its fertility by unintermittent cropping with tobacco and grains.

I am reminded of an incident, related by your founder, LUTHER TUCKER Senior, many years ago at some eastern agricultural convention, which will bear repetition. He was showing how agriculturists did not always fully use their advantages, and illustrated his point by relating what occurred when visiting a friend who lived on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. This gentleman was surrounded with the shiftlessness characteristic of his neighbors generally. Mr. Tucker said: "Mr. Blank, how is it that you, who were so noted in Massachusetts for thrift, energy and skillful management, should be so lazy down here in Maryland?" The reply was: "Why, if you could go out in the bay there, as I can, and get as many fish and oysters in an hour's time as would do your family a week, you too would get lazy!"

The force of this little anecdote can be appreciated by the visitor of the present day. Here is a soil capable of growing everything needed for comfort and luxury, and waters beside, teeming with fish and oysters. It is not surprising, therefore, that neglect to improve advantages may follow the fact of residence. I do not wish, however, to insinuate that the doctor has

succumbed to these seductive influences as have many of his neighbors, and Yankees who have made their homes on the Eastern Shore. On the contrary, he is so thoroughly alive, irrepressible and energetic that did I not know him to have been born south of Mason and Dixon's line I would take him for a Yankee fresh from down East.

He and family have a beautiful home, and the cultivated taste of his accomplished wife exhibits itself everywhere in the adornments and embellishments of the dwelling house and grounds. She sojourns on the farm from June to October, as she finds its cool pleasant air and its many rural attractions quite a relief from the irksomeness of the city during the heated term. From the broad piazza one looks out on the grand, broad expanse of the Chesapeake Bay, dotted with shipping, and has a view of charming and exquisite beauty. Hardly one hundred feet off, the tide ebbs and flows around a small island which Dr. Sharp has made in his house yard, and the visitor can but warmly appreciate that here, as elsewhere on the Eastern Shore, nature offers the farmer a home combining in the fullest degree the practical and the beautiful.

Alexandria Co., Va. R. S. LACEY.

THE FARMER IN FACT AND FICTION.

In the world of literature the agriculturist bulks out freely. Perhaps it may be owing to the age of the trade, perhaps to the universality of the dependence on the produce of that trade, but it is certain that from the days of the "first tiller of the ground" unto the present day, the farmer has been more often pictured in prose and verse than have most other occupations. There is brought into the mind at once Farmer Wardle in "Pickwick," whose farm was as "good a bit

o' land as any in Kent, 'cept Mullins' Meadows" and whose jovial hospitality, love of sport, and comfortable surroundings many of his successors would wish to possess. There is the delightful picture George Eliot drew of Mr. Poyser, "rotund and rosy," and his spouse—the very type of a Midland farmer's wife of the past, and the modern representative of Solomon's "virtuous woman," who did not eat the bread of idleness. The farmers whom Lord Lytton drew in "My Novel" are typical also; and Scott has drawn many from Dandie Dinmont, "in his sluttish plenty," to "The Antiquary." The pictures of the novelists of the past—the Fieldings and the Smollets—give us the farmer in the coarseness of the past, ignorant, except as to the lore of his trade, credulous, careful and industrious. And the paintings of farmers and farming life add much to the charm that for generations has hung about Goldsmith's incomparable "Vicar." Still further back in date, we find that the patriarch's possessions were defined by the numbers of flocks and herds; that one of the most charming stories of old is that where Ruth gleaned "briest high amid the alien corn" in the fields of her dead husband's rich relations; and that the troubles of that great farmer, Job, commenced with his cattle, like many of his latter-day descendants, but did not continue to the declension of the prices of produce.

Poetry finds in the farmer, his trade, and his flocks, unvarying objects of use for illustration, and for simile, as well as for description. In olden days Virgil sang of "wheat and woodland, tilth and vineyard, hive and horse and herd;" and down to the days when Tennyson, in one of his finest poems put the chief scene of Dora in the fields, the harvest and the harvesters have been uninterruptedly celebrated in poetry. Macaulay gives to brave Horatius, as a reward, as much of

the corn land "as two strong oxen could plough from morn till night;" Milton praises that faithful man who went forth with a "cumbrous train of herds and flocks;" Wordsworth gives some of his finest touches to tell the labor and the rewards of the agriculturists in days when the steamship did not bring the produce of the world to this isle to benefit the consumer, but also to make it go hard with the producer. So over the field of poetry there is cast the shadow of the agriculturist. Poets as diverse as Whittier and Praed can chant his praises—the one turning his "bell-unsummoned feet" to where "farmer folk in silence sit," and the other picturing his vicar as delighting to acknowledge "the farmer's homely wit." Finally, Longfellow has an incomparable picture of a farming village "where the richest was poor, and the poorest had abundance." These days celebrated in literature have passed away from the tiller of the soil, and we should need to look to Crabbe's stern verse for the fitting portraiture of the depressed agriculturist of to-day. When next the "Royal" comes to the Tyne, let us hope that there may be more likeness between the jovial, hot-blooded, prosperous farmer of fiction and the one we now know in fact.—*Newcastle Chronicle, England.*

The XXV Volume.

Our twenty-fifth year commences with the January number. With the help of our subscribers we can make it a "Red Letter" volume. Write us; send us news items; new subscriptions; keep the press in motion.

One Dollar.

Only one dollar! But when they come in from hundreds and thousands of subscribers they give us courage. Every subscription adds strength.

POULTRY.

SOMETHING ABOUT POULTRY.

From "A Most Wonderful Book on Poultry."
(COPYRIGHT.)

JUST as in the case of any other pursuit, Poultry keeping requires experience to insure success.

BOOKS and READING are great helps to those who keep Poultry; but they can never take the place of experience.

AN APPRENTICESHIP at the business with some successful Poultryman is the very best preparation for the beginner.

The Poultry business is not HEAVY WORK, but it is exacting; requiring constant attention and care—from earliest dawn until dark.

THEY SUCCEED BEST who are attracted by the Poultry business and study it; not those who take it up with the expectation of rapid and enormous gains.

Do not expect the Poultry business to SUPPORT you from the start. Much disappointment is caused by glowing accounts of great gains in the current literature of farm papers.

Do not be misled by SPECIOUS CALCULATIONS and "count your chickens before they are hatched" with high expectations.

Do not become discouraged at trifles; such as delay in getting eggs, or young chicks; the death rate from cholera, roup, gapes, &c. Hunt out the cause.

The BEST LOCALITY for a successful Poultry business is near a large town or city: Railroads, however, help to neutralize the objection of distance.

GET a situation if possible sheltered on the north and west; open to the south and east. Not only is this best for Poultry; but for all purposes of farm life.

The BEST SOIL for Poultry is a sandy loam—rich, productive, easily spaded. Barren sand or coarse gravel is not desirable; neither is clay.

To every dozen hens and one cock a space TWELVE feet by TWENTY-FIVE feet is needed for the house and yard. As much more range as can be provided.

CAPITAL is needed to carry forward the Poultry business—A little to begin with; more as it increases.

A LARGE PROFIT can be realized by anyone who understands the Poultry business. But it comes after years of apprenticeship and acquired knowledge of details.

The MARKET for Poultry and eggs is a good one; not well supplied. The importation is large.

In the beginning of Poultry keeping the few will not require ALL YOUR TIME and attention; afterwards the increase may.

Commence keeping Poultry in SMALL NUMBERS. We would advise not more than one cock and a dozen pullets to commence with.

The many FAILURES in the Poultry business, where large numbers have been kept, have resulted from the lack of experience—commencing with too many and ending with neglect.

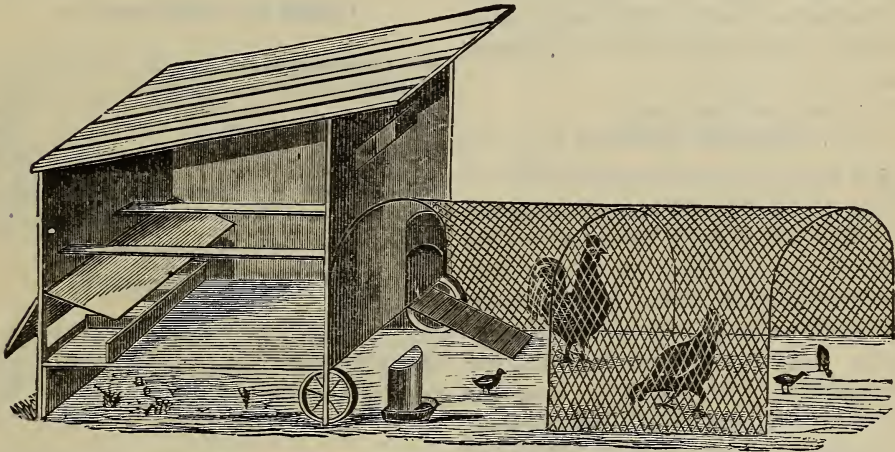
STUDY your flock: Its wants, diseases, habits. Nothing will take the place of

study. Then reduce your knowledge to practice.

NATURE SAYS: Poultry must scratch; poultry must roll in the dust; poultry must hunt insects and food; poultry must hide their nests; poultry must be clean; poultry must be busy; poultry must be warm in winter and cool in summer.

MOVABLE POULTRY HOUSE.

Those who have tried movable poultry houses regard them as exceedingly profitable arrangements, and very desirable. We give an illustration of one in use in



England, which is mounted on wheels, with a floor raised high enough above ground to form a dry run. It has a set of movable laying nests at back, outside flap-door with lock, large door with lock, for attendant, small sliding door and ladder for fowls, two shifting perches, and sliding window. The benefit birds of all description derive from change of place, not only arises from the pleasure every animal as well as man derives from changes of scene, but by being preserved from the exhalations emitted by excrementitious matter and decaying food.

HEN FRUIT.

"Eggs begin to come from the South in January," said a Dey street dealer, "and they run up just like shad and strawberries. A few come from Texas. There is big money in the business there if it is developed. But it isn't worked up yet. North Carolina starts in first. In about four weeks after we get some from Washington, which come from the Shenandoah Valley. Then come the Eastern Shore eggs."

"Which next?"

"Pennsylvania, and then come Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky. Ohio usually drops in a month after North

Carolina, but this year she was even with her."

"Which are next in the procession?"

"The far West and Southwest, by way of Kansas and St. Louis. Then Iowa and Illinois. After them come Northern Indiana, Minnesota, Dakota, Northern Iowa and Michigan. We get some—not many—from Dakota."

"How about New York?"

"This State has so many large towns that most of her eggs are consumed in the interior markets. After they get through pickling, however, New York dealers send

us some fresh in the summer. Canada comes next to the far West. Foreign eggs have been barred out this season because prices have been better in England. They took very well where they could be sold for enough less to make it an object for people to use them."

"Why are Southern eggs so much smaller?"

"That is because they adhere so much to the gamefowl down there. The difference is not only in size, but in the quality of the meat. The Cochins, Plymouth Rocks, or any Northern breeds afford altogether more nutriment in their eggs than the Southern Fowl. The best way to ship is in free cases, with patent dividing pasteboards, unless the shipper is a very skillful packer, when the best way is to send them in barrels packed in cut straw."

"Is much pickling done?"

"There are firms in New York State that pickle from 100 to 1,000 barrels, 840 to a barrel. Iowa has single picklers that put away from 500 to 5,000 barrels, and so has Minnesota. Chicago has refrigerators that can hold 50,000 cases. In this city the refrigerators are only used in cases of emergency. But talk about pickling eggs, Germany takes the lead. There are some vats in this country that hold 25,000 eggs, but one German pickler has a vat that holds 500 barrels, or 420,000 eggs. He pickles yearly from 750,000 to 100,000 barrels of eggs, or from 63,000,000 to 84,000,000 eggs."—*New York Sun*.

Clubs.

We earnestly request those who have favored us with clubs during the past to renew their work for the coming year. We should have a good club of subscribers at every post office in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and the Carolinas. Raise new clubs; add to the old ones.

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AND
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Do not forget to send for a premium, if you wish one, when you send in your subscription this month.

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Payable \$1.00 a Year in Advance.

December is the month in which the great majority of the subscription accounts of the Magazine become due for the year to come. We ask a prompt return of the small amount from every one who receives a bill in this number. It is a small sum to each one, but it will make glad the labors of the coming year, and give us a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Put the bill and the cash in the enclosed envelope, stamp the envelope, and drop it in your Post Office.

The XXV Volume.

Our twenty-fifth year commences with the January number. With the help of our subscribers we can make it a "Red Letter" volume. Write us; send us news items; new subscriptions; keep the press in motion.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

No day of all the year is more welcome than Christmas. It is a holiday associated in all minds by the pleasant gifts of friendship. Aside from its sacred relations, its observance for so many hundreds of years by all nations has given it a character which appeals to every man, woman and child to promote as far as possible the happiness and joy of those who belong to them either as kindred, or in the intercourse of business or society.

Around this day, however, are gathered the most hallowed memories of the world's history, and these have been woven into our nature until we associate the welfare of mankind with this day, and consider it a promise of great and good things to every mortal. Christmas greetings, Christmas bells, belong to the glorious

promise of happiness which the Christ has brought for humanity—for the great family of mankind. Let not one narrow, selfish thought be connected with this grand day; let it be universally bright and beautiful, that all hearts may rejoice—a Merry, Merry Christmas for all.

May every reader of the MARYLAND FARMER be especially happy on this Christmas day; but while we wish this in especial, we will also wish abounding joy for the great humanity.

Renew Now.

Large numbers of our subscribers begin with the New Year. Send in your subscriptions and get a neighbor, if possible, to send in his name also.

DRIED LEAVES.

The leaves have fallen and now cover the ground wherever a patch of woodland, an orchard, or ornamental grove is located. In a long experience among farmers, to see these leaves gathered and used, has been the exceptional experience of our life. In but two cases have we observed anything like an attempt to gather the bulk of them, and then only because bedding for the horses and cattle promised to be scarce, and it was desirable to sell the straw. The great value of the leaves themselves did not even then enter into the account in the minds of those who used them. They used them merely as a temporary substitute for something else.

Consider the actual value of these dry leaves, however, and it will readily appear how important it is that they should be gathered and used as a matter of principle. No one can afford to allow them to lie beneath the trees or to be scattered by the wind over the fields into the corners of the fences, into the thickets formed by bushes

and briars, and into other out-of-the-way places.

They make excellent bedding for cattle and horses, and when broken up and trampled are the very best absorbents of all the fertilizing elements. When cast upon the manure pile in this condition they make a very rich compost and their decomposition gives a manure which is not surpassed in activity and usefulness, by any stable or barn-yard manure. Even that from animals fed on grain or bran, or oil cake, or corn meal, does not surpass it in quality.

As a bedding for swine it is excellent and the more they can dispose of during the winter, the better it will be both for the farmer and for the swine. We are strong believers in good bedding for swine and in giving them so many of these leaves that they will have no chance of turning their pen into a filthy hole of repulsive mire.

As an abundance of litter upon the floor of the poultry house, or covering the ground beneath the shed in their yard, it is a first-class article. It keeps the flock busy from morning until night. The grain thrown among the leaves is hidden by them and the busy hens hunt and scratch till the very last particle of food is discovered. The chickens also break the leaves up quite finely so that they will absorb the droppings and thus add greatly to the value of the fertilizer. It is not necessary to mention how much warmth and comfort they will bring the chickens in keeping them from the cold, moist ground during the winter.

If you have no use for the leaves for any of these purposes, yet do not fail to gather them and place them in heaps that the rains may reach them and promote decay, fitting them for use in spring, both as a mulch and as a grand fertilizer for vegetable crops. Boxes, bags, barrels and any

spare room in barn or shed should be made of use to hold leaves, and every spare hour should be turned to account in gathering them.

To those who have a flock of sheep and have been troubled by the various ailments growing out of the fact that the ground beneath their shed is so often a half frozen slush of mud and snow; what a suggestion of comfort is presented by a foot in depth of dry leaves beneath them when the winter's night comes. It enables the farmer, who has any thought for his stock, to rest with greatly added contentment by his comfortable fire.

The Anarchists.

The hanging of the Chicago Anarchists took place Friday, Nov. 11, at 11.54 A. M. Chicago time, or 12.54 P. M. Baltimore time. It has developed the fact that hundreds of Anarchists exist in the country—mostly in our large cities—and that it is important to educate the people that there is no liberty without law; that the resort to anarchy does not mean liberty, it means destruction; that anarchy only intensifies the troubles under which any are struggling; that every desired change in government, or in society, must be sought in a peaceful agitation of the subject. Resort to violence retards the accomplishment of even the best cause in such a country as ours. Anarchy is a brooding horror which threatens every home.

Clubs.

We earnestly request those who have favored us with clubs during the past to renew their work for the coming year. We should have a good club of subscribers at every post office in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and the Carolinas. Raise new clubs; add to the old ones.

CREAMERIES.

In the past the MARYLAND FARMER has advocated the establishment of creameries wherever a sufficient quantity of milk could be obtained to keep them in profitable operation. We have given in detail the arguments to support our faith in their value both in an economical and financial consideration, as well as the amount of very hard labor it takes from the wives and daughters of farmers.

But now Creamery butter is demanded by the people, and commands a much higher price than that supplied by private dairies. Not that private dairies fail to supply as good an article; but we all know that while some give a very superior article of "gilt edge" butter, others supply only such "villianous stuff" that we look upon it with sorrow and disgust. The production of the Creamery, however, though not equal to the "gilt edge," nevertheless is of such a uniform character, so generally excellent, that the people demand it. The demand must be supplied, and all our dealers in butter are filling their orders to a very large extent with butter from other states, where the creameries flourish. We must have them here, that co-operative work may add one more triumph to the progressive spirit of farming in our midst; or, we may as well acknowledge ourselves very far behind the age and hopelessly in the background.

 New Names.

In such a large list of names as ours, the adding of new names in their proper places requires care; send early that we may make no mistake through hurry. Give Post Office, County and State in full.

Subscribe to the MARYLAND FARMER, with a premium, only \$1.00 per year.

A GOOD OFFER.

The *Horticultural Art Journal* \$3.00 a year, is one of the best illustrated monthly fruit and flower publications in this or any other country. Each number contains four full page illustrations, colored from life, of fruits and flowers—each one a gem of beauty and worth more than the price of the number. We have received a request to use this Journal in connexion with our own, and we will give a year's subscription of this to anyone of our subscribers who will send us \$3.00 cash, and we will credit the subscriber also with one year's subscription to the MARYLAND FARMER. Or we will send both the *Horticultural Art Journal* and the MARYLAND FARMER a full year to any new subscriber who will send us \$3.00. To these new subscribers we will send the Oct., Nov. and Dec. numbers of the MARYLAND FARMER of this year, and all of the year 1888. We can do nothing that will bestow greater pleasure than in making this offer of the *Horticultural Art Journal* in this way. Each illustration is a superb chromo of some new and attractive fruit or flower of life size. Send in the subscriptions.

 The College.

We have in this number a second historical article concerning the Maryland Agricultural College, from our esteemed correspondent, A. Bowie Davis, Esq. It is gratifying to us to be able to give these articles to the public. The College at present is in the hands of a Board of Trustees, who would gladly make it all that the Farmers of Maryland can desire. They have been unable to carry out their plans of improvement; because of the lamentable want of co-operation on the part of the Farmers of the State. Could the farmers be prevailed upon to give them the moral power of their approval they could easily make it the base of as grand a work in their behalf as are the Colleges of Michigan, Mississippi or Wisconsin, of Kansas, Massachusetts or Maine, to the farmers of those States.

The State would liberally aid it and it would at once become a great power for good.

For A Present.

Thinking many of our Subscribers would like to make a handsome Christmas present at small expense, we have concluded to offer from now to Dec. 25th, the popular Book "The Long Run," by Miss Rose E. Cleveland, handsomely bound in cloth, for 50 cts. post paid, This is to *Our Subscribers Only*. If you are not a Subscriber to MARYLAND FARMER it will be sent to you for \$1.00.

Subscribe to the MARYLAND FARMER with a premium, only \$1.00 per year.

Answers Wanted.

In carrying out his theory of fertilization, our friend and contributor, Dr. Sharp, has brought us specimens from his once almost barren fields; one, a turnip, common purple top variety, weighing 4 lbs. and 5 ozs., measuring $22\frac{1}{2}$ inches round; another, a single stool of oats, in which one seed has thrown up 44 vigorous spikes! Who of our readers can rival or surpass this?

One Dollar.

Only one dollar! But when they come in from hundreds and thousands of subscribers they give us courage. Every subscription adds strength.

MISCELLANEOUS.

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

ENSILAGE.

To say a word in opposition to ensilage in the face of so much said in its favor may seem factious on my part; yet from what I have read and seen I cannot make up my mind to build a silo for reasons to be seen before the conclusion of this article. I have examined a number of specimens of ensilage all of which were strongly acid, with an unpleasant smell, and as it is cut green, must cause the handling of a large per centage of water, at least four fifths. To prevent its entire destruction air must be excluded, and the mobile nature of it makes this no easy job. The intense acidity proves conclusively there has been a chemical change and the sugar and gluten, two of the great complex organizations which build up the animal economy, have undergone a decomposition

—i. e. a change of molecules—and hence the presence of this organic acid which I have found in all samples, especially the one furnished by our friend Mr. McShane. That this acid may be of no injury to the animal is true; but it is there at the expense of the valuable starch, sugar and gluten, which, all must admit, leaves a larger per centage of cellulose or woody matter in the food. To prevent this change is simply impossible whilst so much water remains in the material of which the ensilage is made; for even with the air entirely excluded a resolution of the sugar and gluten (the quarternary compound) will take place, from the fact that the latter has not the chemical affinity to maintain itself, hence passes to new compounds in the form of gas and organic acids—as is plainly to be seen both in the smell and taste—and in doing

so, much of the valuable nutritious elements of the green crop is destroyed. I am sure no animal could be induced to eat it without being sugar-coated with chop, mill feed or bran. The result of the resolution, or fermentation, of corn or grass is very different from that of cabbage in making sour krout. Cabbage is more of a nitrogous plant, hence the offensive smell and the production of an entirely different acid, which, being isomeric with lactic, or the acid of milk, is more congenial to the stomach and easily digested. Not so with the acetic acid of ensilage. Possibly the samples I have seen may not be fair ones, but certainly they offered no tempting food for stock, while good fodder and hay is always desired, and can be kept without the danger of the fermentations of the ensilage running into the rotting process should air get into it. Sir J. B. Lawes in a late article on ensilage remarked that he expected to make more experiments with it; and I would suggest waiting until the question is fully settled regarding its value, before farmers expend their money for what may prove an unprofitable investment. I have seen nothing yet to induce me to build a Silo, although much has been written in its favor.

A. P. S.

Rock Hall, Md.

[Notwithstanding the rather depreciating article of our much esteemed correspondent, Dr. Sharp, we are firmly of the opinion, from the constant reports of farmers who make extensive use of ensilage, that nothing better has been devised to keep cattle in full flesh during the winter, and to preserve the milk in good flow. We must regard the silo as the best device ever discovered to enable the owners of small farms to keep enough stock to ensure the proper fertilization of their land, without spending all their

income for commercial fertilizers. Nevertheless we think the further discussion will be productive of good.—ED.]

Trucking.

Our Truck farmers in the region around Norfolk and Portsmouth (which is one of the largest truck stations in the United States) have done better with kale, spinach, Cabbage and tomatoes this summer than for many years past, both in yield and prices. The sale of one of our largest truckers amounted to over \$30,000 for cabbage, kale and spinach alone. Truck generally sold well this summer, and with fair profits. Large and profitable crops are the almost invariable result of liberal applications of guanos and other commercial fertilizers, the proper use of which our farmers are learning from experience.—*Amer. Agr.*

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

FROM THE NEW JERSEY GARDENS.

One would naturally expect that near the great city of New York, the entire country would be placed under the richest condition for the production of crops to supply the wants of the city. This expectation, however, is not realized by facts; for as you go away from the city in any direction the railroads seem to penetrate a vast region of barrenness—a belt of country which seems to be too worthless for the growth of any crop. On each side of the Hudson River going North, (we call it here “the North River,”) are the best lands; but they appear mostly of a hard, rocky and sterile character; until the immediate belt is passed, and attractive farming lands are reached. The New Jersey border lands are generally vast tracts of salt marsh followed by barren

sand or unproductive clay, and for many miles the adjacent fields show no extra endeavors to make the immediate market profitable. The New Jersey gardens are small tracts, here and there, which have fallen into the hands of live men who see the great advantage their location gives them, and who are resolved to make use of that advantage.

I do not claim myself to be one of these live men: but I am trying hard to follow in their footsteps, and I do not object to telling you what I am doing. My telling may lead someone else to do something in this line near Baltimore. Some years ago I got me a tract of forty-seven acres about fourteen miles from the city and resolved to turn it into a garden; but I found it exceedingly slow work from lack of capital and often I became greatly discouraged. The first year or two I look back upon now with wonder to see my ignorant labor and unnecessary suffering of both mind and body. I commenced with breaking up too much land, and should now advise anyone who would attempt this work to break up only just so much as he could thoroughly enrich, even beyond the condition of an ordinary garden. This will lighten his labor very much. If I have succeeded at last in having between twenty-five and thirty acres of garden, it is only because I learned after some hard and sorrowful experience that I must begin small. In learning the alphabet, the child takes only one letter at a time; so I was forced to learn to take one little piece of ground at a time. Then I learned that the most fabulous amounts could be raised on these small patches of ground. I cannot here go into the different crops I raised, for that depends upon the market relations you may make; but I have frequently made in a single season as much as eighteen hundred dollars from a single

acre—getting two, and on part of it, three crops for market. But that was “a dog’s life,” only pursued by me as the means of making a beginning, of which my present fine property and large garden farm is the outcrop. I often get the same crops now; but I hire most of the work done, and can see to the purchases, and sales, and the general proceedings of the business, I and my family both leading a much easier life than in the years gone by. But if any of your readers would arrive at my present garden, they must begin with a small piece, work hard and grow a great deal, and gradually enlarge their enriched land. This is the only way. No one can take a piece of land, and with the free use of money, make a garden of it in its true sense; for money will not take the place of experience. The money will be invariably sunk and the land soon become a witness of the folly. Each one must learn by hard work and patience from “A” to “Z,” so that he can tell when things are going right or wrong. The end, however, is sure, and I would not hesitate to do my work over again now, if necessary.

New Jersey.

JOSEPH STORK.

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

ADDITIONS TO THE ITEMS of the AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE HISTORY.

In the sketch published in the November number of the MARYLAND FARMER, in writing mostly from memory, I find that I omitted two points which, I think, should accompany the sketch to illustrate the character and mode of instruction which the Trustees desired to inaugurate at the College.

The Board was divided into various committees, and one of them was a Committee on Agriculture, consisting of Col. James T. Earle, Chairman, Col. Charles Carroll and A. B. Davis. Finding a farm

of about 400 acres upon our hands—much run down; with but little fencing; no farm buildings—and there being no money in the treasury to fall back upon, the question soon resolved itself into a question of ability and not of choice. The committee reported and recommended that a lot of twenty acres—and twenty acres only—be laid off into half acre plots, to be devoted to experiments in the various crops of grain, grasses, and roots known to the latitude and climate in which the College was located. Also, that the balance of the farm be devoted to grazing for dairy purposes, and for beef and mutton to meet the wants of the College. This report met with general approval. The half acre plots were soon laid off and were still visible when I last visited the College though overgrown with grass and vines.

The second point omitted was an account of the Congressional grant of government land in proportion of 30,000 acres to each member of Congress, making 240,000 acres to Maryland, upon the condition that military tactics should be taught in the College. This generous gift was given to the States to be disposed of without cost or loss to the Agricultural Colleges in the several States. The land was sold for 50 cts. per acre, and yields to the College annually about \$7000. The Act of Congress makes the State responsible for this interest to the College. It is upon this fund and the uncertain and precarious tuition fees (for the donation from the State for several years past has been entirely withdrawn) that the College mainly depends for its support.

But in all its teaching and learning, experience has shown that the most difficult lesson has been to train the student to return to the farm and make the practical application of the arts and

sciences he has been taught in the classroom. Young men brought up in cities—and too many even upon the farm—are averse to labor and work. Being devoid of excitement they look upon it as drudgery and degrading. It should be less and less so every day. The inventive genius of our countrymen has lifted agriculture from the plane of labor to that of arts and sciences. The sulky plow, the spring-tooth harrow, the mower, the thresher and the reaper, with the crowning invention of the combined reaper and binder followed by the steam thresher and cleaner, are the results of scientific knowledge applied to practical agriculture. Then again, that dangerous invention the dynamite, which simplifies the grubbing up of the forests and removes or grinds to powder the flinty rocks. To teach the construction and use of these various implements and inventions ought to excite the ambition of the instructor and arrest the attention of the learner. The farm therefore should no longer be avoided as the field of labor and of drudgery; but should be sought as the school where nature and nature's arts and inventions are blended and brought into beautiful and harmonious relations for the use of man and for the support of commerce and manufactures, and the various modifications of society and the State.

A. B. DAVIS.

LOCAL AND DISTANT NURSERIES.

Encourage the home nursery and gains will come in from many directions. The nurseryman will be induced to try all promising new fruits in your own air and soil at no cost to you, but to your great profit when you come to choose and plant. He will grow for sale only the sorts that succeed well in his region. Then you can see and select the trees and plants yourself;

and get them home without exposure and fatal drying of the roots; you can have the prime advantage of planting early in the season so that new rootlets will be ready to issue before any buds open to make draft upon the roots.

And besides all this you pay no extravagant price, and no agent's per centage, and you have recourse if you find any mistake made as to sorts or sizes. Never trust such an important matter as the choice of trees which will be yours for life to wandering, unknown and irresponsible peddlers, or even to fixed local agents who do not themselves grow them; if you can, deal directly with a respectable nurseryman—and all nurserymen are respectable—something in the nature of their business, or in their tendency to select it, gives assurance of sound moral worth.

A nurseryman sometimes substitutes another variety for the one ordered by mail. But how is he to know whether he will not be blamed if he fail to fill the order with a tree as nearly as possible like the sort named, and do so before the season passes and it is too late to plant any tree? The majority fail to order until there is no time left for inquiry. It is easy to state with the order whether that variety and no other is wanted. Some retailers do what is much worse than the substitution complained of. If, say, Blush apple is wanted, and there is no tree of Blush left, a Blush label is tied on some other sort and that is sent to satisfy the requirement.—*Hortulanus*.

Clippings.

THE raisin crop of California is first quality this year and will amount to 1,000,000 boxes.

MAKE certain that the barn-yard is kept clean, otherwise the stock will be com-

pelled to stay in their stalls and be deprived of fresh air.

THE time to dig wells is when the earth is dryest, for water obtained under that condition, if in full supply, will abide through every drought.

To make a granary rat-proof surround it with two thicknesses of hemlock board, breaking joints, and no rat or mouse will gnaw through.

IT is much better for hogs to run in clover and keep clean than to wallow in filth in pens or contracted yards that pollute the air as far as stench can reach.

PAINT put on the outside of buildings in autumn, after cold nights have driven insects to winter quarters, will last better than if spread when more rapid drying occurs, and will present also smoother surface when dried.

ONE of the peculiar traits of the people of Siberia is, they buy their milk frozen, and for convenience it is allowed to freeze about a stick which comes as a handle to carry it by. The milkman leaves one chunk or two chunks, as the case may be, at the houses of his customers.

Near Sidell, Ill., horses are dying by the score from a disease something similar to a cancer. The first place attacked is on the throat, and from the moment the eating process commences it takes only a few days for the disease to cause death. The farmers there are alarmed at the progress the disease is making. No remedy has yet been found that will either relieve the beast dying or will cure the disease.

PRESERVING WOOD.—Some farmers may get a hint as to preserving posts, etc., from the following method employed in Norway on telegraph poles, as given in the *Scientific American*. In each pole a hole is bored with a small augur, beginning at a point two feet above the ground

and boring obliquely downwards at as small an angle as possible, until the point of the augur reaches the centre of the pole. The hole thus made is filled with sulphate of copper, which is renewed from

time to time. The hole is kept plugged. It is found that the crystals of copper sulphate disappear slowly, while the wood gradually assumes a greenish tint.

MOUSEHOLD.

NOT FIT TO BE KISSED.

"What ails papa, mother," said a sweet little girl,
Her bright laugh revealing her teeth white as pearl.

"I love him, and kiss him, and sit on his knee,
But the kisses don't smell good when he kisses me."

"But, mamma,"—her eyes opened wide as she spoke,

"Do you like nasty kisses of 'bacco and smoke?"

They might do for boys, but for ladies and girls,

I don't think them nice," and she tossed her bright curls.

"Does nobody's papa have mouth nice and clean?"

With kisses like yours, mamma,—that's what I mean.

I want to kiss papa, I love him so well,

But kisses don't taste good that have such a smell.

"It's nasty to smoke, and eat 'bacco and spit,

"And the kisses aren't good, and aren't sweet, not a bit!"

And her blossom-like face wore a look of disgust,

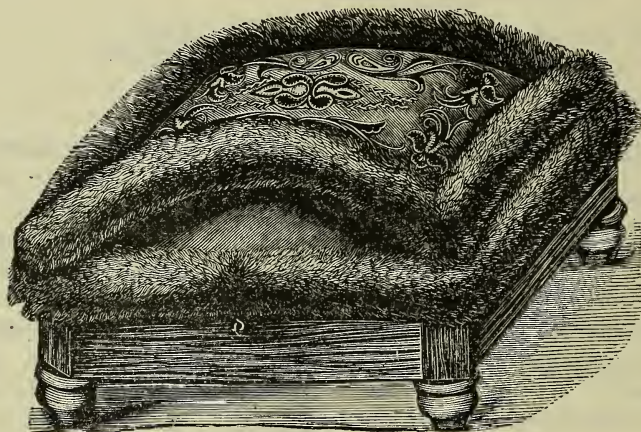
As she gave out her verdict so earnest and just.

PERPLEXED PARENTS.

Here is the experience of an anxious young married couple with their first baby, who certainly deserves sympathy, and who, it is to be hoped, will in due time learn that two-thirds at least of the reports of "what the doctors say" in newspapers

was never said by any doctor who possessed common sense. "Oh, Charley," said my wife the other day," writes the husband, "here is a German physician who says that babies should never sleep on their right side; and you know I always lay Tommy down in that position!" "Well, well," I said, consolingly, "it evidently hasn't hurt him much. He is the picture of health." "Oh, you can't tell by that how he has felt! He may have suffered terribly." The next day I read in one of our prized 'Infant Columns,' 'A baby should always be put to sleep on its right side, as the pressure on the heart is thus relieved.' 'Here,' I said—"we must go back to the old way!" and baby was turned accordingly. Within twenty-four hours my wife came hurrying to me, newspaper in hand. 'Charles, how ignorant we are! We certainly don't deserve such a treasure as our baby. Here we have been making Tommy sleep first on one side and then on the other, when I have just read that a baby should always lie on its back, as digestion is thus greatly assisted. No wonder the little darling is restless.' So Tommy was turned over on his back, and there he lay, till one morning I picked up a magazine and read, 'It may not be generally known that the most healthful position a baby can be placed in for a nap is flat on his stomach. 'He'll get used to it by-and-by,' said my wife. 'Raise him a little higher on his pillow.' 'But I have just read that a baby should never lie on a pillow; it is liable

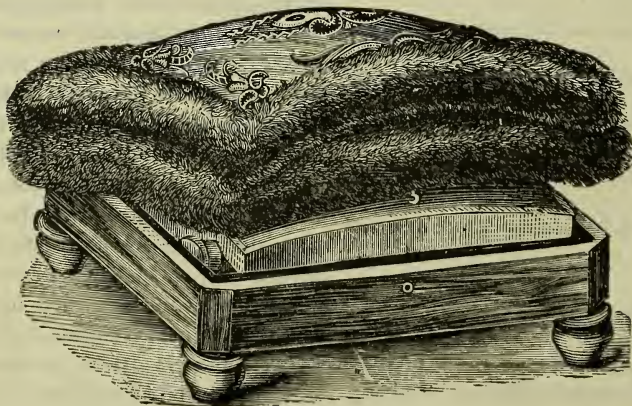
to cause a curvature of the spine.' 'Oh, level with its body" 'Bring back that mercy,' screamed my wife, 'do throw the pillow,' I said. 'But I don't want his pillow away!" But that very day we spine curved,' protested my wife. What read, 'A rush of blood to the head often shall we do? 'Tommy seems as anxious results from having a child's head on a about it as we are."



Footstool with Hot Water Tin.

We give two illustrations of this comfort giving device, showing the footstool both open and closed. The framework of the stool is of polished wood, and so arranged as to contain a hot

water tin, the movable top being stuffed and covered with woolen rep. Over this is fastened an ornamental cover of dark-brown cloth, embroidered in applique, lined with fur, or knitted pieces of cloth to imitate fur, and trimmed with brown fur. The top of the stool is also edged



with fur. For an invalid nothing can be more acceptable than this stool, and it can be made simple or elaborate as means will afford. A sufferer from cold feet will appreciate the gift far more than many a costlier one, and as a cosy addition to an invalid's room it is a most desirable article.

WATERING WINDOW PLANTS.

Whilst many plants are *starved* for want of water, many a plant is killed outright by giving it too much. When a plant looks sickly you are apt to think it is water that it wants, when it is water that is killing it, and the plant is really being killed with kindness. The way to tell if a plant requires watering is to tap the pot with the knuckles; if it rings out it requires water; if it gives out a quiet sound it is all right; but if it gives out only a dull, heavy sound, then the ground is saturated already, and will not require any for a day at least. Again, if the surface looks dry, just move the soil with your finger, and if it is almost dry underneath it requires water; if it is wet do not give any, but wait a day or so. Watering is a most important point in plant growing, and has to be learned chiefly by experience, different plants requiring different treatment, but in a short time you will be able to tell at a glance if the plant requires watering. The very best of all is rain-water, but if you have not got any, water from the tap, only let it stand in the open air for a few hours, or pour it from one jug into another five or six times which will aerate it. Be very careful by adding a little warm water or otherwise to make the water for your plants about the same temperature as the room in which they live, and in watering give each plant a good soaking, and see that it runs out at the bottom of the pot; but do not let the water stay long in the saucer which the plant stands in, or it will rot the lower roots. If it is thought that the water escapes between the pot and soil, which it will do if the soil is once allowed to get dust dry, stand the plant in a bucket of water just enough to cover the pot for ten minutes or so, when it will be all right again. About once in three weeks put a small piece of lime about the size of a walnut

into the water for the plants; it sweetens the soil and strengthens the plant and make the leaves look a brighter green, which is a sign of health.

HOW TO BEHAVE AT TABLE.

Nothing is more disagreeable than careless and untidy table manners. To acquire graceful and pleasing habits while eating sometimes takes years of practice. But it can be done. One can always tell a well-bred person by the manners at the table, whether man, woman or child.

To commence on improvement sit down and think how you really do behave at table; see that you present a scrupulously clean appearance, and that your hair is well combed, and your nails attended to; nothing can excuse a neglect of these things. Seat yourself quietly, and, if possible, wear a pleasant face. Use your napkin; use your knife to cut with, and your fork to convey the food to your mouth. Drink from your cup, but do not make a noise in doing so. Be as careful as possible of the feelings of others, and do not keep them waiting on you unnecessarily.

Do not lay your knife and fork on the table cloth, but hold them in your hand when passing your plate.

Do not attempt to reach an article that is too far from you. It is much better to say, "the bread, if you please." Do not put large pieces in your mouth; do not yawn or lay your arms on the table. Always take notes from the best-mannered people, and imitate them; this is a safe rule, and like an open book to you.

Practice these things at home, and when you are in company you can keep your home manners, instead of putting on some for the occasion. And while your home manners are always easy and natural the "put on" ones are usually awkward and easily distinguished.

To Remove the Common Wart.

It is now fairly established that the common wart, which is so unsightly, and often proliferous on the hands and face, can be easily removed by small doses of sulphate of magnesia taken internally. M. Colrat, of Lyons, has drawn attention to this extraordinary fact. Several children treated with three grains of Epsom salts morning and evening, were promptly cured. M. Aubers cites the case of a woman whose face was disfigured by these excrescences, and who was cured in a month by a drachm and a half of magnesia taken daily. Another medical man reports a case of large warts which disappeared in a fortnight from the daily administration of ten grains of salts.—*Medical Press*.

GOOD RULES FOR WINTER.

Never lean with the back upon anything that is cold.

Never begin a journey until the breakfast has been eaten.

Never take warm drinks and then immediately go out into the cold.

Keep the back, especially between the shoulder blades, well covered; also, the chest well protected. In sleeping in a cold room establish the habit of breathing through the nose, and never with the mouth open.

Never go to bed with cold or damp feet.

Never omit regular bathing, for unless the skin is in active condition, the cold will close the pores and favor congestion or other diseases.

After exercise of any kind never ride in an open carriage or near the window of a car for a moment; it is dangerous to health or even life.

When hoarse speak as little as possible until the hoarseness is recovered from, else the voice may be permanently lost, or difficulties of the throat be produced.

Merely warm the back by the fire, and never continue keeping the back exposed to heat after it has become comfortably warm. To do otherwise is debilitating.

When going from a warm atmosphere into a cooler one keep the mouth almost closed so that the air may be warmed by its passage through the nose ere it reaches the lungs.

Never stand still in cold weather, especially after having taken a slight degree of exercise, and always avoid standing on ice or snow, or where the person is exposed to cold wind.—*Sanitarian*.

A Good Offer.

One of the largest importers of English silver-steel needles has enabled us to make the following offer to our subscribers.

To anyone who will send us a new subscriber and \$1.00, we will give 3 papers of these needles, one of which will be a paper of darning needles.

These are warranted to be the very best silver-steel, drilled-eyed English needles. They are sold at large prices, whenever they can be had; but only first-class houses keep them.

Send your own dollar also, and these papers of needles will be sent for each.

Here is a chance for our subscribers to secure an article which will be of real value in the household.

Wooden Weddings.

Wooden weddings occur after five years of married life, and afford the bride much refurnishing of the kitchen, and nowadays some beautiful presents of wood carving. The wooden wedding, which was originally begun in jest with a stepladder and a rolling pin, now threatens to become a very splendid anniversary indeed, since the art of carving in wood is so popular and so much practised by both sexes. Every one is ready for a carved box, picture frame,

screen, sideboard, chair, dressing table, or other carved object. Let no one be afraid on these anniversaries to offer a bit of wood artistically carved.

IF YOU WOULD BE HAPPY.

Beware of the man of two faces.

Persevere against discouragement.

Take a cheerful view of everything.

In all promised pleasures, put self last.

Trust in God and mind your own business.

Pray for a short memory as to all unkindnesses.

Do not talk of your private, personal, or family matters.

Put not your trust in money, but put your money in trust.

Cultivate forbearance till your heart yields a fine crop of it.

Give your tongue more holiday than your hands or your eyes.

Examine into your own shortcomings rather than those of others.

Act as if you expected to live a hundred years, but might die to-morrow.

Compare our manifold blessings with the trifling annoyances of each day.

Do the duty that lies nearest thee; thy second duty will already have become clearer.

Be content to do the things you can, and fret not because you cannot do everything.

Never reply in kind to a sharp or angry word; it is the second word that makes the quarrel.

Make the best of what you have, and do not make yourself miserable by wishing for what you have not.—*Good House-keeping.*

ON THE WHEEL!

What 'Round-the-World Stevens and Champion Howell Say of the Sport.

The popularity of 'cycling is growing.

Thomas Stevens, who has just been around the globe on a wheel says that the best roads in the world are found in British India. The Grand Trunk road is 1,600 miles, an unbroken highway of marvelous perfection, from Pershawar on the Afghan frontier to Calcutta. It is made of smooth, hard, natural concrete, beds of which lie along the line.

How such roads would be appreciated by the enthusiastic 'cyclers of this country!

The wonderful achievement of Mr. Stevens, in the face of myriad dangers, entitles him to all his honors.

The fast riding champion of the world, however, is Richard Howell, of Leicester, England. He is a splendidly made fellow, between 25 and 30 years of age, six feet high, and weighing, in training, about 160 pounds.

He commenced riding in 1879 and in 1881, at Belgravia grounds, Leicester, he won the one-mile championship of the world, beating all the best men of the day.

From that time his career has been one of almost unbroken successes. He came to the United States in 1884 and 1885, and at the great Springfield tournament in 1885, won seven out of eight races.

In the '*Cycling News* (Eng.), October 1st, 1887, is the following interview with him.

"What are your best performances?"

"This year I did a full mile on the track at Coventry in 2 minutes, 35 seconds. Good judges think, with everything in my favor, I could do 2:30 for the distance."

"What is your system of training?"

"I eat plain good food, and plenty of it. I take a little walk before breakfast, and then, after that meal, if I am loggy, ride

eight or nine miles on the track here, in thick flannels. After dinner I do some more 'slogging' work, and may be a walk and early to bed.

"But there is one idea of mine which I have found invaluable. If I have done too much work, or my system is out of order, or if I don't feel quite sound, I take what I have used since I was 'queer' in 1883. I have always found that Warner's safe cure sets me up and puts me to rights again, and it is a remedy which I believe in and tell all my friends about.

"In the winter-time especially, when you can easily understand I am not so

careful of my health as in the spring, summer or autumn, I have found it invaluable.

All I want, to beat the fastest bicyclist in the world, is plenty of practice, an occasional dose of my favorite, and my machine.

"When I am about right in weight I content myself with short, sharp bursts as hard as ever I can go on the track, and when I can cover 440 yards in thirty seconds with a flying start, I reckon to be moving as well as I want to."

Bicycling is glorious sport, but it has its physical ill effects which, however, can be easily overcome by the method used by Champion Howell.

THE KITCHEN.

RECIPES.

BY AZILE.

Fried Squash.

Crooked-necked summer squash—the rough, warty kind is splendid.

An egg with a little flour stirred into it.

Cut the squash in thin slices, dip into the egg, and fry in a pan with butter.

Some omit the egg and put the slices of squash in dry flour, and then fry.

Have the frying pan good and hot and fry until brown.

A good way to distinguish mushrooms is to sprinkle salt on the spongy or under side. If it turns yellow the specimen is poisonous; if black, it is wholesome.

Cream Sauce.

The following I manufacture from the *Free Quill*:

To mix the spice thoroughly and uniformly through the sauce:

Stir the spice first into the sugar; then

pour the cream upon it a little at a time, and mix well.

The sauce will thus be spiced throughout.

Pear Desert.

Take 6 or 8 canned pears with their syrup.

Cook till thick as honey.

Remove from fire—cut into halves and put in a dish.

Beat the whites of two eggs to a stiff froth, sweeten and spread over the pears.

Brown in the oven.

Oyster Stew.

Take plenty of oysters with their liquor. Add water to the liquor if needed.

One tablespoonful of butter.

Pepper and salt, if the latter is lacking.

Cover the stew pan and place over the fire.

Remove as soon as it boils.

Cover the bottom of the soup plate with cold milk.

Empty the stew pan into the soup plate and serve.

Snpply tomato catsup and vinegar, crackers, butter, slaw.

Oyster Pie.

First of all get good oysters—Baltimore supplies them of unrivalled quality.

One quart of these oysters—dry measure.

Season to taste and add a lump of butter in bits scattered over the oysters, after placing them in the pie.

Make the crust with 1 quart of flour, 2 tablespoonfuls of lard and 1 teaspoonful of salt.

Have both an under and upper crust, with a cut in the upper one.

Bake in a moderately hot oven.

SAM SMALL'S BROTHER.

Why did God Make so Much Outdoors?

Two Women's Experiences.

"Sam Small, Evangelist!"

The proverbial philosophy of "Old Si," the venerable plantation darkey, who gave to the world through the medium of Small's pen maxims of worldly wisdom, clothed in a verbiage of irresistible humor, has found a permanent place in humorous literature.

Great surprise was shown when it was announced that he, having been converted under the ministrations of "Sam Jones," would become an evangelist.

At first thought, a humorist in the pulpit seems incongruous. Is it really so?

No doubt the mere buffoon attempting to turn men's hearts to solemn truths would meet with only contempt. But truth is not hidden in gloom. Genuine humor frequently illustrates and fastens in the mind bits of wisdom that would otherwise pass unheeded.

In his eulogy of Henry Ward Beecher,

Rev. Dr. Parker says: "Whenever he came among men, he brought June sunshine and music, and made even desponding and surly men feel that a fuller and warmer summer, 'the Kingdom of Heaven,' itself was 'at hand.'" That is genial christianity.

Mr. Small belongs to a witty family. He has a brother connected with Armoy Knox's and "Fat Contributor's" *Texas Siftings*, a paper which has had phenomenal success in the field of humorous literature. Mr. Frank A. Small is the present representative of that popular paper in England, and, like his distinguished brother, he takes a deep interest in the welfare of other people.

Under date of 48 Porten Road, Kensington W. London, Eng., Sept. 27th, 1887, he writes "While at Yalding in Kent yesterday, I met Prof. S. Williams, Head Master of the Cleaves Endowed school. In the course of conversation about America, Professor Williams remarked that Warner's safe cure had been of great benefit to his wife, who had been much troubled with a disordered liver. Warner's safe cure (an American preparation) was all she had taken, and she had experienced none of her old trouble for some months past.

Mrs. Annie Jenness-Miller, editor of New York *Dress*, and a very popular woman in the fashionable world, says in her own magazine for October: "Warner's safe cure is the only medicine I ever take or recommend. In every instance it gives new energy and vitality to all my powers." This distinguished woman also says that for ladies this great remedy is "peculiarly effective."

Sam Small is likely to succeed as a moral teacher. When we remember how near together in human nature lie the fountains of laughter and of tears, the deep effect his discourses must have on the masses can easily be imagined.

"Why did God make so much out-

doors?" exclaimed a little girl. We know not. He has made it and we should grow in it, broad, charitable and genial, judging everything by merit, not by prejudice.

Books, Catalogues, Reports, &c.

WE are indebted to the Hon. N. J. Colman of the Agricultural Department for a copy of *Wool and other Animal Fibres*, by Wm. McMurtrie. It is valuable as a work of reference; but it is a mass of unintelligible figures to the uninitiated. Its plates are attractive, and it will prove in the future a valuable work as the basis of further examinations.

THE Entomological writings of Dr. Packard in Bulletin No. 14 of that department.

BULLETIN No. 16 of Division of Chemistry, gives Methods of Analysis adopted by the members of the Association of Official Chemists at their convention last August.

FROM the Department of State, Reports of Consuls, Nos. 83 and 84. Also, Statistical Abstracts for Foreign Countries for each year from 1873 to 1885.

BULLETINS 28 and 29 of the Agricultural College of Michigan.

REPORT of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture for the month of October.

FROM the Consul of the Netherlands, we have received *The Frisian Herd Book* for 1887—a work which all dealers in cattle should possess.

THE Bulletin No. 93 of the Connecticut Experiment Station devoted to Grasses and Forage Plants.

THE New England Tobacco Grower's Association, Secretary's Office, Glastenbury, Conn. The Report includes the

address of Pres. Hubbard and is devoted to abolition of Tax on Tobacco.

ADDRESSES of Hon. N. J. Colman and Dr. D. E. Salmon before the National Cattle Grower's Convention at Kansas City.

THE *Reins and Whip*, an expressive title to those who love the horse. It is finely gotten up and invites patronage, \$2.00 a year, Philadelphia, Pa.

Woman's Work comes to us from Athens, Ga., and is a paper which can do an excellent work in that region, 50 cts. a year.

THE First number of a new Magazine under the expressive title "Woman" has been received by us. It is printed in excellent style, and is evidently intended to make its mark in the future. It has a broad field, an excellent corps of writers, and is in all respects a readable book, \$2.75 a year—The Woman Publishing Co., New York.

The Delineator, issued by the Butterick Publishing Co., N. Y., has become one of the great institutions of our country: "In the twelve months ending Dec. 1887, the names of 30,000 *bona fide* subscribers have been added to the list, and the first edition of each month is now 200,000." In the future it will retain all the writers and departments of the past and promises increased energies in the direction which has hitherto made it so popular. As a reliable Fashion Magazine, it is just what every family needs, and it can be had for \$1.00 a year.

REPORT of the work of the Farmer's Institutes of Wisconsin 1887. We have mentioned them before and shall have occasion to refer to them hereafter.

Subscribe to the MARYLAND FARMER, with a premium, only \$1.00 per year.